

2. (Three Times Amended) A tension member for providing lifting force to a car of an elevator system, the tension member interconnecting the car and a counterweight, the tension member being engageable with a rotatable traction sheave that is driven by a machine and over which the tension member passes so as to engage the traction sheave between take-up and take-off points on either side of the traction sheave, the tension member comprising:

a plurality of individual load carrying ropes; and

a common layer of polyurethane coating in which the ropes are embedded, maintaining separation of the individual ropes and resisting longitudinal movement of the ropes relative to one another,

the tension member having a width w , a thickness t measured in the bending direction, and an engagement surface that receives force from the traction sheave as a result of traction between the engagement surface and a region of the traction sheave between the take-up and take-off points, which force is transmitted to the ropes of the tension member by the polyurethane coating to thereby move the car, the engagement surface being defined on the polyurethane coating substantially by the width dimension of the tension member,

wherein the tension member has an aspect ratio, defined as the ratio of width w relative to thickness t , greater than one.

4. (Three Times Amended) A tension member for providing lifting force to a car of an elevator system, the tension member interconnecting the car and a counterweight, the tension member being engageable with a rotatable traction sheave that is driven by a machine and over which the tension member passes so as to engage the traction sheave between take-up and take-off points on either side of the traction sheave, the tension member comprising:

strands of non-metallic material; and

a polyurethane coating encasing the strands,

the tension member having a width w , a thickness t measured in the bending direction, and an engagement surface that receives force from the traction sheave as a

result of traction between the engagement surface and a region of the traction sheave between the take-up and take-off points, which force is transmitted to the non-metallic strands of the tension member by the polyurethane coating to thereby move the car, the engagement surface being defined on the polyurethane coating substantially by the width dimension of the tension member,

wherein the tension member has an aspect ratio, defined as the ratio of width w relative to thickness t , greater than one.

13. (Three Times Amended) A tension member for providing lifting force to a car of an elevator system, the tension member interconnecting the car and a counterweight, the tension member being engageable with a rotatable traction sheave that is driven by a machine and over which the tension member passes so as to engage the traction sheave between take-up and take-off points on either side of the traction sheave, the tension member comprising:

a load-carrying member; and

a polyurethane coating encasing the load-carrying member,

the tension member having a width w , a thickness t measured in the bending direction, and an engagement surface that receives force from the traction sheave as a result of traction between the engagement surface and a region of the traction sheave between the take-up and take-off points, which force is transmitted to the load-carrying member of the tension member by the polyurethane coating to thereby move the car, the engagement surface being defined on the polyurethane coating substantially by the width dimension of the tension member,

wherein the tension member has an aspect ratio, defined as the ratio of width w relative to thickness t , greater than one.

16. (Three Times Amended) A tension member for providing lifting force to a car of an elevator system, the tension member interconnecting the car and a counterweight, the tension member being engageable with a rotatable traction sheave that is driven by a machine and over which the tension member passes so as to engage the traction sheave

between take-up and take-off points on either side of the traction sheave, the tension member comprising:

- a load-carrying member; and

- a polyurethane coating encasing the load-carrying member, the tension member having a width w , a thickness t measured in the bending direction, and an engagement surface that receives force from the traction sheave as a result of traction between the engagement surface and a region of the traction sheave between the take-up and take-off points, which force is transmitted to the load-carrying member of the tension member by the polyurethane coating to thereby move the car, the engagement surface being defined on the polyurethane coating substantially by the width dimension of the tension member,

- wherein the tension member has an aspect ratio, defined as the ratio of width w relative to thickness t , greater than one, and

- wherein the engagement surface is shaped to guide the tension member during engagement with the sheave.

71. (Twice Amended) An elevator system including:

- a car;

- a counterweight;

- a traction sheave that is driven by a machine; and

- a tension member interconnecting the car and the counterweight, the tension member passing over the traction sheave, being engaged by the traction sheave between take-up and take-off points on either side of the traction sheave, and being driven by the traction sheave, the tension member comprising

- a plurality of individual load carrying ropes, and

- a layer of polyurethane coating in which the ropes are embedded, maintaining separation of the individual ropes and resisting longitudinal movement of the ropes relative to one another,

- the tension member having a width w , a thickness t , and an engagement surface that receives force from the traction sheave as a

result of traction between the engagement surface and a region of the traction sheave between the take-up and take-off points, which force is transmitted to the ropes of the tension member by the polyurethane coating to thereby move the car, the engagement surface being defined on the polyurethane coating substantially by the width dimension of the tension member,

wherein the tension member has an aspect ratio, defined as the ratio of width w relative to thickness t , greater than one.

72. (Twice Amended) An elevator system including:

a car;

a counterweight;

a traction sheave that is driven by a machine; and

a tension member interconnecting the car and the counterweight, the tension member passing over the traction sheave, being engaged by the traction sheave between take-up and take-off points on either side of the traction sheave, and being driven by the traction sheave, the tension member comprising

strands of non-metallic material, and

a polyurethane coating encasing the strands,

the tension member having a width w , a thickness t , and an engagement surface that receives force from the traction sheave as a result of traction between the engagement surface and a region of the traction sheave between the take-up and take-off points, which force is transmitted to the non-metallic strands of the tension member by the polyurethane coating to thereby move the car, the engagement surface being defined on the polyurethane coating substantially by the width dimension of the tension member,

wherein the tension member has an aspect ratio, defined as the ratio of width w relative to thickness t , greater than one.

74. (Twice Amended) An elevator system including:
- a car;
 - a counterweight;
 - a traction sheave driven by a machine; and
 - a tension member interconnecting the car and the counterweight, the tension member passing over the traction sheave, being engaged by the traction sheave between take-up and take-off points on either side of the traction sheave, and being driven by the traction sheave, the tension member comprising
 - a load-carrying member, and
 - a polyurethane coating encasing the load-carrying member, the tension member having a width w , a thickness t , and an engagement surface that receives force from the traction sheave as a result of traction between the engagement surface and a region of the traction sheave between the take-up and take-off points, which force is transmitted to the load-carrying member of the tension member by the polyurethane coating to thereby move the car, the engagement surface being defined on the polyurethane coating substantially by the width dimension of the tension member,wherein the tension member has an aspect ratio, defined as the ratio of width w relative to thickness t , greater than one.

75. (Twice Amended) An elevator system including:
- a car;
 - a counterweight;
 - a traction sheave driven by a machine; and
 - a tension member interconnecting the car and the counterweight, the tension member passing over the traction sheave, being engaged by the traction sheave between take-up and take-off points on either side of the traction sheave, and being driven by the traction sheave, the tension member comprising
 - a load-carrying member, and

a polyurethane coating encasing the load-carrying member,
the tension member having a width w , a thickness t , and an
engagement surface that receives force from the traction sheave as a
result of traction between the engagement surface and a region of the
traction sheave between the take-up and take-off points, which force is
transmitted to the load-carrying member of the tension member by the
polyurethane coating to thereby move the car, the engagement surface
being defined on the polyurethane coating substantially by the width
dimension of the tension member,
wherein the tension member has an aspect ratio, defined as the
ratio of width w relative to thickness t , greater than one, and
wherein the engagement surface is shaped to guide the tension
member during engagement with the sheave.

REMARKS

Applicants request reconsideration of the subject application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 2-4, 7-13, 16-22 and 71-75 are pending, of which claims 11, 12, 17, 21, 22 and 73 have been withdrawn. Claims 5 and 6 have been canceled. Of the claims under consideration, claims 2, 4, 13, 16, 71, 72, 74 and 75 are independent and are amended herein to even more clearly define the invention in a manner that distinguishes over the art.

Formal Rejections

Claims 5 and 6 stand rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. This rejection is respectfully submitted to be moot in view of the cancellation of these claims.

Obviousness Rejection